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MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: January 1, 2009

SUBJECT: **Third Party Underground Storage Tank Inspections**

This memorandum is to reiterate the recent changes to the Massachusetts Underground Storage Tank Regulations as they relate to underground storage tank inspections. The Federal Energy Act of 2005 mandates that state underground storage tank (UST) regulations be consistent with Federal UST regulations.

Massachusetts, as well as a majority of other states, has decided to adopt a third party inspection program. Under this scenario, the owners and operators of most UST, including municipally owned, will have to hire a third party inspector to conduct an inspection of their USTs and file an inspection report with both your office and this office. The initial inspection must be completed no later than August 8, 2010.

The Massachusetts Operational Services Division is in the process of developing statewide contracts for third party inspections. These contracts will be available to public entities. A list of approved third party inspectors is also available on our agency website www.mass.gov/dfs.

If you have any questions, or require assistance, please contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181.

SDC/bhs